



NEWS RELEASE
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Wild About Ohio's Green Zoos at GEO 11th Annual Meeting

GEO Recognizes Ohio Renewable Energy Champions at Columbus Zoo on Saturday

COLUMBUS – The public is invited to join Green Energy Ohio (GEO) on Saturday, May 7th for an all-day event celebrating Ohio renewable energy and energy efficiency at five of Ohio's zoos – Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo. Expert speakers, tradeshow, silent auction, renewable energy leadership awards, and tour of the Columbus Zoo green energy systems will highlight GEO's 11th Annual Meeting from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Wild About Green Zoos, is a public event from 9:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the Activity Pavilion of the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium, 4850 West Powell Road, Powell, Ohio 43065. The event Sustaining Sponsor is gridSMART from AEP Ohio.

Registration for the Annual Meeting and Lunch event from 12:00 to 5:00 pm is \$35 for Non-Members and \$28 for GEO Members with discounted Zoo-only admissions available on-line at: www.greenenergyohio.org. The green energy trade show exhibits and silent auction are free to all Zoo visitors for the day, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, at Activity Pavilion.

The Annual Meeting features presentations by Zoo green energy experts: Doug Piekarz, Vice President, Planning & Conservation, Akron Zoo; Mark Fisher, Senior Director of Facilities, Planning & Sustainability, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden; Cathi Lehn, Ph.D., Resource Specialist, Cleveland Museum of Natural History; Mike Long, Sustainability Consultant with Terri Kepes, Vice President, Design, Columbus Zoo & Aquarium.

Special guests will receive the "GEOs" – the Annual Awards of Green Energy Ohio which recognize 2010 contributions that individuals and businesses have made to promote and utilize renewable energy, including:

Pioneer of the Year Awards: Michelle Greenfield, CEO, Third Sun Solar, Athens, Ohio
Al Frasz, Vice President and Principal Owner,
Dovetail Solar & Wind, Cleveland, Ohio
Greg Kuss, CEO, SolarVision, Westerville, Ohio

Public Official of the Year Award: Mayor Michael B. Coleman, City of Columbus

Non-Profit of the Year Award: Chris Meyer, Energy Program Director,
Dayton Development Coalition

Business of the Year Award: Design Group, Columbus, Ohio

Celebrating 11 Years - Green Energy Ohio is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting environmentally and economically sustainable energy policies and practices in Ohio. GEO is the Ohio Chapter of the American Solar Energy Society.

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GEO's Clean Energy Community of the Year Award goes to five Ohio Zoos for their commitment to green energy education excellence by providing renewable energy and energy efficiency programs and installations. The recognized zoos are:

Akron Zoo
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
Columbus Zoo & Aquarium
The Toledo Zoo

GEO will also recognize two Volunteers of the Year for the Dayton Solar Tour:

Karen Diehl, Fairborn, Ohio
Roger Hummel, Tipp City, Ohio

This event will also feature the GEO 2010 Annual Report and GEO Volunteer Recognition.

For more information, please visit www.greenenergyohio.org or call (614) 985-6131.

About Green Energy Ohio (GEO)

Green Energy Ohio (GEO) is a nonprofit organization that promotes economically and environmentally sustainable energy policies and practices in Ohio. GEO conducts public outreach on all forms of renewable energy, serves as the Ohio American Solar Energy Society (ASES) Chapter and provides a statewide residential solar thermal rebate. To learn how renewable energy can work for you or see GEO's Milestones in Greening Ohio 2001-2011, visit www.greenenergyohio.org.

Editor's Note - Recipients of Green Energy Ohio's Annual Recognition Awards:

Three Pioneer of the Year 2010 Awards

Michelle Greenfield. Co-owner and CEO of Third Sun Solar, a business Michelle Greenfield and her husband started in 2000. In 2001, Michelle joined the Board of Directors of Green Energy Ohio, and then served as its President from 2005 to 2007. Michelle's company, Third Sun Solar, has installed over 300 renewable energy systems and has become one of the premier full-service providers of clean energy systems in the Midwest. Third Sun currently employs 28 people; most of whom are based in their home office in Athens. 2010 was a large growth year for the company as it successfully installed eight of Ohio's solar American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects around the state.

Greg Kuss. Founder and CEO of SolarVision, a Power Purchase Provider located in central Ohio, Greg brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the company as well as a long-term commitment to sustainable energy alternatives. His role includes serving as chief executive officer with oversight of all operations and serving as the company's principal liaison to the solar industry. Greg is a fourth-generation energy businessman. Since 2001, Greg has served as a founding member, past president and current member of the Green Energy Ohio Board of Directors and Board of Trustees.

Al Frasz. As Vice President and Principal Owner of Dovetail Solar & Wind, multi-million dollar renewable energy systems implementation and consulting services firm, Al leads the sales, marketing, finances, and corporate strategy. He focuses on increasing market awareness, new business development in commercial and non-profit sectors, improving financial performance, enhancing supplier relations, and identifying strategic partnerships. Al provided leadership on strengthening Dovetail's business processes and systems to enable rapid growth and expansion where revenues increased over 1000% since 2005, leading to expansion into 4 additional locations, tripled staff, and significantly increased market awareness, reputation and customer references. He has served on the GEO Board since 2009

Public Official of the Year 2010

Mayor Michael B. Coleman launched the Get Green Columbus initiative allowing the City of Columbus to lead by example and reduce the city's impact on the environment. A major goal of the mayor's is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from city operations 10% by 2015. This is being achieved through building energy efficiency projects, retrofitting pedestrian and traffic signals with LED technology, generating renewable energy such as hydropower, biogas and solar power and using alternative fueled vehicles in its fleet. Mayor Coleman has also developed incentive programs to help businesses reduce their energy use such as the E3 program for manufacturers and the Green Columbus Fund program to incentivize the development of LEED certified buildings and redevelop brownfields. For more information visit www.getgreencolumbus.org

Non-Profit of the Year 2010

Energy Program, Dayton Development Coalition. As Director of Energy Programs, **Chris Meyer** worked with a wide range of small businesses active in the green energy space in 2010 into early 2011. With goals to raise awareness, offer collaboration opportunities, and grow jobs, he facilitated meetings and presentations with business, academia, and non-profits in the Dayton region and beyond. A most recent accomplishment was his collaboration with Green Energy Ohio to design and carryout GEO's largest and most successful conference to date this past February in Dayton.

Ohio Business of the Year 2010

Design Group is 54 person architecture and planning firm founded in 1972 that specializes in education, library, civic, workplace and healthcare buildings. Since its inception the firm has designed buildings that use less energy and promote a more sustainable world. The Columbus-based firm has been awarded the Ohio Governor's award for energy efficiency by 3 past governors and were recently presented the Governor Strickland's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Environmental Stewardship. Currently the firm is working on six LEED projects and has had seven projects LEED certified. Examples of these buildings include: the LEED Gold, Franklin County Court House, and the Hocking College Energy Institute, which is the first education building in Ohio to be LEED Platinum.

Clean Energy Community of the Year 2010

Ohio's Green Zoos will receive the Clean Energy Educational Community of the Year Awards for their commitment to green energy education excellence by providing renewable energy and energy efficiency programs and installations. Programs at the Zoos have been featured by GEO publications and at workshops and events at the Zoos since 2001. See cover story in the Spring 2011 *Green Energy Ohio News Magazine* at:

www.greenenergyohio.org/page.cfm?pageID=574

GEO's Clean Energy Community of the Year Award recognizes: Akron Zoo; Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden; Cleveland Metroparks Zoo; Columbus Zoo & Aquarium; and The Toledo Zoo.

Akron Zoo. Akron Zoo began the journey into green infrastructure and operations at a point in time when it was not generally accepted as "the thing to do". The Zoo's Green Team has been active for 20 years. The team is responsible for guiding sustainability efforts from recycling, through the latest project which includes enough solar energy production to power a new electric train ride.

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Recognized as the greenest zoo in America for its aggressive, all encompassing sustainability program, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden makes big part of its effort as a commitment to clean, renewable energy. The Zoo has several advanced energy installations around its campus, including solar electric, solar thermal, wind, and geothermal. The latest endeavor, a 1.56 MW solar array canopy system in the Zoo's parking lot is one of the crowning achievements. As the largest educationally accessible urban solar array in the U.S., the 6,400 Melink Solar Canopy provides power for 20% of the Zoo's annual energy directly from the sun.

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo. The new African Elephant Crossing LEED-certified exhibit is among the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo's sustainability efforts along with extensive recycling programs for employees and visitors, including education, composting animal manures and bedding materials for use on grounds and also for sale, and the Resource Management Committee (green team) which recommends new sustainability initiatives to management. The Zoo has hosted Earthfest each Earth Day, one of the nation's oldest and largest celebrations.

Columbus Zoo & Aquarium. Since 2008 the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium has invested in sustainability projects designed to reduce the use of electricity, to save water, resources, and money. Projects range from a unique geothermal system, to "smart" skylights, new energy-efficient lighting systems and 3 million LED holiday lights. The OSU Solar Decathlon Home is currently on exhibit near the Zoo's Polar Bear area.

The Toledo Zoo. Part of the Toledo Zoo's mission is to care for the natural world, so it's only natural that the Toledo Zoo is dedicated to exploring and implementing green initiatives throughout the grounds and in their practices. In November 2010, the Zoo dedicated its SolarWalk, a 1,400 foot iconic steel structure spanning the walkway of the parking lot to the main entrance. The energy produced by the SolarWalk will allow the Zoo to reduce its CO2 output by 75 metric tons, the same amount that 15 medium-sized cars output each year. In addition to the SolarWalk, the main entrance also features a wind turbine and solar panels that power the ticket booths. The Zoo has also installed a geothermal system.

GEO Volunteers of the Year 2010

For their dedicated work on the Dayton Solar Tour in 2010 and a variety of other volunteer efforts on behalf of GEO, the Awards recognize:

Karen Diehl. Enthusiastic and organized, Karen co-led the 2010 Dayton Region Solar Tour volunteer organizer committee in 2010. The Dayton Region tours consisted of 25 host sites covering 14 cities and 310 visitors. Karen also worked with the City of Fairborn to designate October 2, 2010 as National Solar Tour Awareness Day.

Roger Hummel. For the past three years Roger has volunteered on the GEO Solar Tour working with other volunteers and site owners to make the Dayton Region Tour one of the fastest growing tours in the state. He notes that the Dayton Region is blessed to have many types of advanced energy systems available to showcase, and he looks forward to making the 2011 Tour better than ever. Roger is currently the Accounts Manager for EnergyWize, a solar electric/solar thermal design and installation company in Dayton, Ohio.

Complete List of Past and Current GEO Awards 2001-2010 Follows

GEO Annual Recognition Awards 2001-2010:

GEO Pioneer of the Year Awards

2001: Robert Howard Family
2002: GEO Wind Committee
2003: Daryl Stockburger
2004: GEO Green Team for the
Ohio Governor's Residence
2005: Al Compaan
2006: City of Cleveland Sustainability Program
2007: Cleveland Indians
2008: Governor Ted Strickland
2009: Ralph Dull
2010: **Three Pioneer of the Year Awards:**
Michelle Greenfield ([Third Sun Solar & Wind](#));
Al Frasz ([Dovetail Solar & Wind](#)); and,
Greg Kuss ([SolarVision LLC](#))

GEO Public Official of the Year Awards

2001: Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council
(NOPEC), Mayor of Eastlake
2002: Tom Maves, Renewable Energy
Specialist, Ohio Office of Energy,
Efficiency, Ohio Dept. of Development
2003: Andy Boatright, Utility Manager,
City of Westerville
2004: Governor & Mrs. Bob Taft
2005: Peter Dreyfuss, Midwest Office Director,
U.S. Department of Energy
2006: U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur
2007: Sara Ward, former Chief, Ohio Energy
Office, Ohio Dept. of Development
2008: Ohio Senator Jon Husted
2009: Mark R. Shanahan
2010: **[Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman](#)**

GEO Nonprofit Group of the Year Awards

2001: Foundation for Environmental Education
2002: Columbus-Franklin County Metro Parks
2003: American Municipal Power of Ohio
2004: Northwest Ohio Partnership for
Alternative Energy Systems
2005: The George Gund Foundation &
The Cleveland Foundation
2006: Entrepreneurs for Sustainability
2007: Great Lakes Science Center
2008: The Sierra Club
2009: Ohio Interfaith Power & Light
2010: **Chris Meyer, [Energy Program](#),**
[Dayton Development Coalition](#)

GEO Business of the Year Awards

2001: Green Mountain Energy Company
2002: Vanner Inc.
2003: First Solar
2004: Doty & Miller Architects

GEO Business of the Year Awards (continued)

2005: Decker Homes
2006: Convention & Visitors Bureau of
Greater Cleveland
2007: Duke Energy
2008: Melink Corporation
2009: *Ohio Magazine*
2010: **[Design Group](#)**

Ohio Clean Energy Community of the Year Awards

2004: The Bowling Green &
Wood County Community
2005: City of Cuyahoga Falls
2006: City of Oberlin / Oberlin College
2007: City of Cleveland & Cuyahoga County
2008: City of Cincinnati / Cincinnati Technical &
Community College / Duke Energy /
University of Cincinnati
2009: Ohio Community Colleges
Cincinnati State Technical &
Community College, Cincinnati, Ohio
Columbus State Community College,
Columbus, Ohio
Cuyahoga Community College,
Cleveland, Ohio
Hocking College Energy Institute,
Logan, Ohio
Owens Community College,
Perrysburg, Ohio

2010: Ohio Green Zoos

[Akron Zoo](#)
[Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden](#)
[Columbus Zoo & Aquarium](#)
[Cleveland Zoo](#)
[The Toledo Zoo](#)

GEO Volunteer of Year Awards

2001: Ryan Sullivan
2002: Rhonda Gatzke
2003: Sherry Hubbard
2004: Chris Chmiel, James Groeber, Geoff Rich
2005: Bob Weinberg, Aaron Godwin
2006: Jerry Leard, Ruth Vandersall
2007: Scotte Elliott
2008: Joe Peschel, Donny Davis, Jerry Leard,
Matt Bennett, Al Lindeman
2009: Joe Perlaky, Kelle SantaMaria,
Jerry Leard, Geoff Greenfield,
Siobhan Pritchard

2010: Karen Diehl & Roger Hummel - [2010 Dayton Solar Tour](#)

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